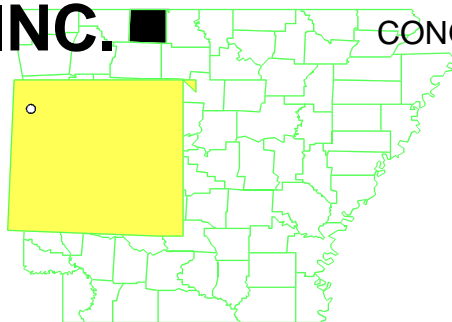


ARKWOOD, INC.

ARKANSAS

EPA ID# ARD084930148



EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 03
Boone County
Updated: July 7, 1997

Site Description

- Location:**
- West of US Highway 65 and 1/2 mile southwest of Omaha, in Boone County, Arkansas; the site is bordered on the south and southwest by Cricket Road and on the north by Missouri-Pacific Railroad tracks.
- Population:**
- Estimated 650 people within 3 miles of the site.
- Setting:**
- Nearest residence: 2 residences within 500 feet of the site; 174 homes within a one mile radius.
 - Nearest drinking water well less than 1/4 mile from the site; 12 residences immediately down Cricket Valley have been hooked up to the city water supply.
 - Encompassing approximately 15 acres, the site was utilized as a PCP and creosote wood preserving facility from the early 1960s to 1984.
 - Onsite structures recently removed included process equipment for the Remedial Action (i.e., sieve system, storage bins, office and lab facility, drainage ditch and roads, air monitoring equipment).
- Hydrology:**
- Located in the Springfield Plateau province of the Ozark Highlands region of Northwestern Arkansas, the Arkwood site is located in a karst terrain formed by the solution of limestone and dolomite by ground water. The near surface formations at the site are the Sylamore sandstone, and the St. Joe and Boone limestones.
 - 54 springs have been identified within a 1.5 mile radius of the site. These springs discharge from hillsides or in valley bottoms. Only one spring, New Cricket Spring, has been demonstrated to be hydraulically connected to the site in a down gradient direction. There are no known users of the water from New Cricket Spring.

Wastes and Volumes

- The major areas of contamination included the process and drip tracks areas; the wood storage area; railroad drainage ditch (contaminated with process wastes); the treated wood storage area; a sinkhole used to dispose of waste from approximately 1962-1970; and an area of wood chips. These areas have now been addressed by the Remedial Action.
- Principal Pollutants at the Arkwood Industries Superfund site included soils that were contaminated with Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), Pentachlorophenol (PCP), and trace dioxins. New Cricket Spring, approximately 1/4 mile northwest of the site, contains low (1 part per million) levels of PCP. However, this level exceeds Arkansas Water Quality Standards for the stream.

- The volume of pollutants addressed by the Soils Remedy was approximately 10,600 cubic yards of contaminated soils, 600 gallons of pumpable liquids (removed from sinkhole area), and some 250 55-gallon metal drums which were either empty or contained miscellaneous debris, personal protective equipment, or fluids from past investigative activities. Approximately 5 tons of non-affected debris was transported off-site for municipal disposal.

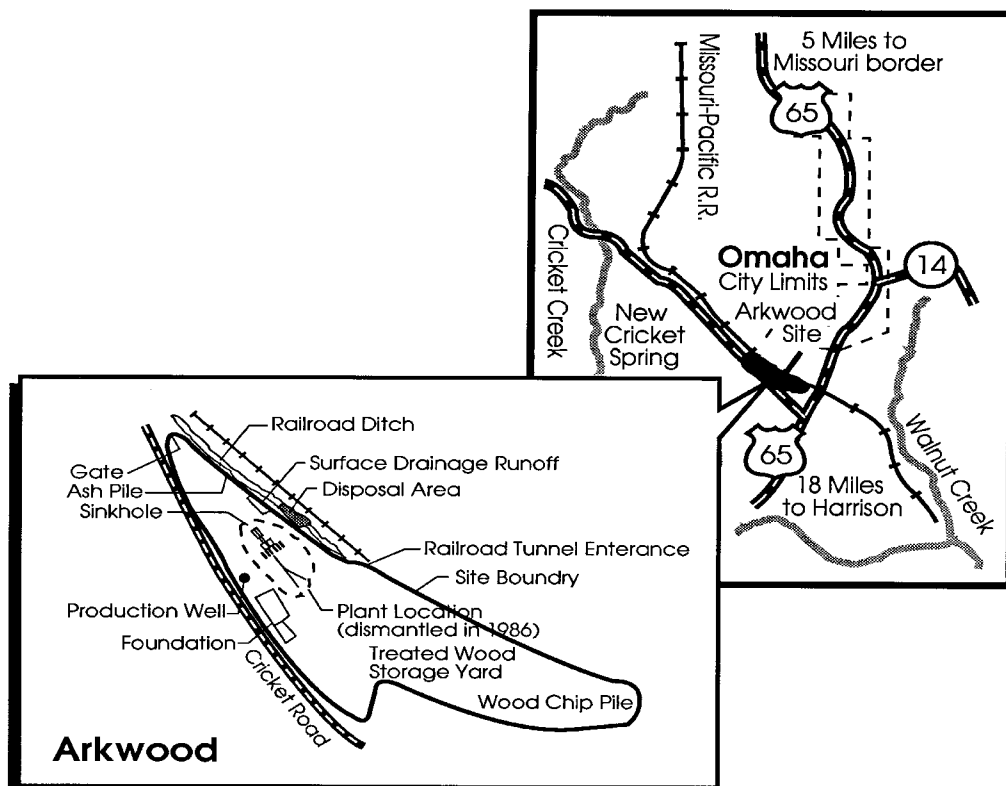
Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 28.95
Proposed Date: 9/04/85
Final Date: 3/31/89
NPL Update: No. 4

- The Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) sent comments to Headquarters and the Region contesting the site ranking. Mass Merchandisers, Inc. (MMI) contended that the HRS package contained two errors which significantly affected the ultimate scores. The questions concerned calculations of waste volume and the calculation of ground water targets.

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- The Arkwood Site was originally excavated by the railroad between 1954 and 1962, to obtain material for the construction of railroad embankments.
- In 1962, Arkwood, Inc. opened a single cylinder PCP and creosote wood treatment facility and operated the site until 1973. From 1973 to 1984, Mass Merchandiser, Inc. (MMI) operated the plant under a lease agreement with the owner.
- MMI ceased operations in 1984, at which time MMI sold or removed its remaining inventory and materials prior to the expiration of its lease in 1985. The owner subsequently dismantled the plant in 1986.
- On May 15, 1986, EPA and MMI entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) to perform the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS).
- In November 1986, the site owner denied EPA site access to conduct the RI/FS. On July 12, 1988, the Department of Justice and the site owner signed a Consent Decree allowing EPA access to the site for conducting the RI/FS and any response action.
- EPA issued an Administrative Order (AO) to the PRPs to fence the site and post warning signs in August of 1987; the site owner responded by erecting a fence and posting the signs.
- The RI/FS was completed in May 1990; a ground water tracer study investigation was completed in September 1992.
- On May 30, 1991, EPA and MMI signed a Consent Decree for conducting the Remedial Design and Remedial Action (RD/RA). Due to various legal delays, the Consent Decree for the RD/RA was entered by the Court on September 24, 1992.
- The RD/RA work plans were approved by EPA on September 25, 1992 and mobilization to the site immediately followed for initiating RD activities.
- The pilot scale studies conducted as part of the RD activities demonstrated that the sieve process, preceded by an in situ drying step, was effective for separating affected fine particles (soil) from the unaffected coarse material (rocks) at the site. Therefore, a wash step did not appear necessary as part of the pretreatment process. Due to the results of this study, EPA agreed to phase the RD/RA project on August 24, 1993 in order to expedite the remedial action at the site:

Phase I, Interim Action (Pretreatment & Storage Stage).

- ◆ For definition purposes, Phase I was considered an "Interim Action" for the Arkwood Site consisting of the pretreatment and storage stage of the remedy specified in the Record of Decision and Consent Decree. In addition, Phase I included those backfill activities which needed to be completed to minimize adverse environmental impacts while the Phase II, Final Action RD was being completed (i.e., backfill of material meeting clean up objectives).

Phase II, Final Action (Incineration & Site Closure).

- ◆ For definition purposes, Phase II was considered the "Final Action" for the Arkwood Site consisting of the incineration and site closure stage of the remedy specified in the Record of Decision and Consent Decree. An Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) was completed in June 1995 to change the remedy from onsite incineration to off-site incineration due to a substantial decrease in the volume of material to be incinerated (original ROD estimate at 7,000 cubic yards; ESD estimate at 3,500 cubic yards). Phase II included those backfill activities necessary to complete final grading at the site.

- The Phase I 100% Remedial Design was conditionally approved by EPA and Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology (ADPC&E) in June 1994. Mobilization for this Interim Action was initiated in February 1994 and was mostly completed in October 1994; however, due to weather impediments, this action was restarted in May 1995 and completed in July 1995.

- An Explanation of Significant Differences for the approved ROD was finalized on June 14, 1995 in order to further expedite the remedial action. Since volumes actually excavated during the Interim Action were much less than anticipated during the FS, off-site incineration at a commercial facility (for affected fines stored at the site) could be accomplished much sooner than design and implementation of on-site incineration. No ash would be generated since material would be shipped off-site for incineration. This change in the remedial action was favorable for the local community since the originally planned on-site incineration would have to have been carried out in close proximity to the local school.

- The Phase II 100% Remedial Design was conditionally approved on June 23, 1995 and implementation of this Final Action immediately followed Phase I completion. This Final Action was completed on December 1, 1995 and the walk-through inspection which closed Phase II and the Soils Remedy was conducted on December 13, 1995.

Health Considerations:

- The baseline risk assessment (assumes no remedial action is taken) for the Arkwood site estimated four in one thousand excess carcinogenic risk in consideration of future residential land use on the main site area; two in ten thousand excess risk was estimated for railroad workers in the railroad ditch area.

Other Environmental Risks:

- No endangered species are known to inhabit the area on or near the site; no environmental impacts were identified for off-site areas.

Record of Decision

Signed: September 28, 1990
ESD Signed: June 14, 1995

The 1990 selected remedy called for decontamination and removal of existing structures and foundations, on-site treatment of contaminated soils and sludge (from the railroad ditch), and ground water monitoring in New Cricket Spring.

Soils Remedy:

- The pretreatment of excavated affected material included separation of coarse material (rock) from fines (soil) via a sieve technology; final treatment of soil and sludge included destruction of contaminants via an on-site incinerator; ash and coarse material meeting cleanup levels will be backfilled on-site.

Ground Water Contingency Remedy:

- The ground water via New Cricket Spring will be monitored for two years following the source control (Soils Remedy) to determine if natural attenuation is occurring. The Ground Water Contingency Remedy calls for treatment if Arkansas Water Quality Standards are not met at that time.

| <u>Other Remedies Considered</u> | <u>Reason Not Chosen</u> |
|---|---|
| 1. No Action | Not Protective of Human Health & Environment |
| 2. Limited Action | Access Restrictions not Effective; Not Protective of Human Health & Environment |
| 3. Consolidate Soils & Cap in Place | Continued threat to ground water; Does not meet ARARs. |
| 4. Sieve & Wash Soils, Consolidate & Cap in Place | Continued threat to ground water; Uncertainty in Achieving Cleanup Objectives. |
| 5. Sieve & Wash Soils, Biologically Treat Fines, Consolidate & Cap in Place | Continued threat to ground water; Uncertainty in Achieving Cleanup Objectives Biological Treatment of Dioxin not effective |
| 6. Landfill Affected Soils Onsite | Continued threat to groundwater; Implementation Difficulty. |

The Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) finalized on June 15, 1995 only changed one component of the Soils Remedy. Based upon a significant reduction in volume of fines slated for incineration, estimated at 3,500 cubic yards, off-site incineration was selected to save time and resources in completing the Soils Remedy. This reduction in volume resulted mainly from the pretreatment step effectiveness, but also pre-design sampling to refine the affected soil boundaries across the Site.

Community Involvement

- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 02/87.
- Open houses and workshops: Public meeting 2/87; Sample results fact sheet 9/87; Update 1/88; Water results fact sheet 7/88; Open house 10/88; Update 2/89; Phase I results fact sheet 6/89; Phase II fact sheet 9/89; Workshop held 2/12/90; Open House 12/92; meeting on 5/94.
- Original Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 07/90.
- Original ROD Fact Sheet: 10/90; RD Fact Sheet 12/92
- Phased Approach Fact Sheet: 5/93
- ESD Public Notice:
- RD/RA Activities: Community interviews 11/90-12/90. Incineration workshop 2/91; Open House for opening of Satellite Office at Omaha Public School 12/92. Open House to discuss the phased approach and upcoming Interim Remedial Action, 05/19/93.
- Citizens on site mailing list: 310
- Constituency Interest: Low level organized interest; high individual interest of several residents; Congressional interest. Media coverage in Missouri because of nearby Table Rock Lake and resort. Nearby residents concerned about incineration safety and air emissions for nearby school.
- Site Repository: Omaha Public School, College Street, Omaha, AR 72662

Technical Assistance Grant

- Availability Notice: 01/89
- Letters of Intent Received: None
- Grant Award: None

Contacts

- **Remedial Project Manager:** Cynthia Kaleri (EPA) 214-665-6772, Mail Code: 6SF-LP
- **State Contact:** Michael Arjmandi (ADPC&E)
- **Community Involvement Coordinator:** Donn Walters (EPA) 214-665-6483, Mail Code: 6SF-P
- **Attorney:** Jon Weisberg (EPA) 214-665-2180, Mail Code: 6SF-DL
- **State Coordinator:** Robie Hirt (EPA) 214-665-8079, Mail Code: 6SF-AP
- **Prime Contractor:** PRPs - The Forrester Group

Cost Recovery: Enforcement

- PRPs Identified: 4
- Viable PRP: 1
- The present owner of the site is Mary F. Burke, who acquired the property from Hallie C. Ormond. Mr. C.C. (Bud) Grisham operated the woodtreating facility from about 1963 to 1965. From 1965 until 1973, the treatment facilities at the site were operated by Arkwood, Inc., an Arkansas Corporation, whose stock was then entirely owned by C.C. and Mary Jo Grisham, (Hallie Ormond's son-in-law and daughter). The assets of Arkwood, Inc. were conveyed to MMI in 1973 and formally dissolved in 1974. Upon purchasing the assets of Arkwood, Inc., MMI leased the property from Ormond until the lease expired on January 1, 1985.

Present Status and Issues

- The Soils Remedy was completed on December 1, 1995. Phase I activities resulted in about 8,700 cubic yards of affected soils excavated and processed, 5,200 cubic yards of coarse material generated, and 3,500 cubic yards of fines stored. The final truckload of affected material (fines) was transported off-site in October 1995 for incineration at the ChemWaste commercial incinerator, located in Port Arthur, Texas. Final grading and decontamination and removal of process equipment was completed by December 1, 1995 to bring Phase II activities to a close.
- Monitoring of area springs has continued on a quarterly basis since initiation of the Soils Remedy. Although levels of PCP in New Cricket Spring increased after opening the Sink Hole area on-site during the RA, levels have since decreased following completion of the Soils Remedy. Monitoring will continue through December 1997 to evaluate the effectiveness of the Soils Remedy and the need of the Ground Water Contingency Remedy.
- A Site Preliminary Closeout Report was finalized on June 28, 1996 to officially complete the Soils Remedy. EPA and ADPC&E are considering a partial NPL deletion for the main Site area this year.

Benefits

- Process tanks and structures were removed from the site, thereby eliminating the potential for exposure for workers and trespassers.
- Fencing the site and installing warning signs provided limited access to the site, thereby reducing the potential of exposure to hazardous substances at the Arkwood, Inc. site and making the area safer while final cleanup activities were implemented.
- Supplying city water to area residents reduced the risk of possible exposure to shallow groundwater during the Remedial Action activities.
- Implementation of Phase I provided early action at the site to pretreat and store affected soils, while clean coarse material was backfilled. This early action also helped determine that the volume of affected fines would be much less than that estimated in the ROD (3,500 cubic yards as opposed to 7,000 cubic yards). This information was used to plan an ESD and save resources in completing the Phase II RD/RA.
- Implementation of Phase II was initiated immediately upon completion of Phase I activities and was completed on December 1, 1995. A final walk-through inspection was conducted on December 13, 1995 to verify and document that the Soils Remedy implementation and site closure were complete.
- Implementation of the Soils Remedy reduced potential risk at the site to 1 in 10,000 (industrial land use). In addition, required monitoring of New Cricket Spring through December 1997 should demonstrate that the source removal will allow PCP levels in the spring to decrease with time.